

## **ARC KSS Bulletin Summer 2020**

Welcome to the latest edition of our Bulletin. ARC KSS is now in its first year of operation and have been busy introducing the ARC KSS to our member organisations, communities and academic partners while, at the same time, prioritising COVID-19 related activity.

Over the last few months, we have been busy building up the team including the recruitment of four new ARC KSS [Implementation Managers](#) - who will lead our work across four key themes as including: Starting well, dementia, primary and community health services, and social care. We have also recently appointed a Public and Community Team Leader and a Communications Manager to the team.

In addition, we have also recruited three public advisors to the ARC KSS Board who have a keen interest in health and social care related research and have been busy peer reviewing applications for the COVID calls and taking part in our regional Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forum.

Our ARC KSS website is currently under construction, so, in the meantime, below please find some of our highlights.

### **Professor Stephen Peckham scoops up Award**

In February 2020, Professor Stephen Peckham, ARC KSS Director, won the prestigious National Institute for Health Research Award (NIHR) Senior Investigator Award. The award is one of 28 given to outstanding national research leaders.

[NIHR Senior Investigators](#) are among the most prominent and prestigious researchers funded by the NIHR and the most outstanding leaders of patient and people-based research within the NIHR research community and beyond.

Full details of the 2020 NIHR Senior Investigator and Senior Investigator Emeritus appointments are [available on the NIHR website](#)

**Commenting on his award, Professor Stephen Peckham, said:** "This represents only the second ever Senior Investigator award given in our region so, I am really delighted to be recognised in this way".

### **Kent, Surrey and Sussex to lead the way in adult and social care research**

ARC KSS has been awarded NIHR national priority funding for Adult Social Care and Social Work working in collaboration with eight other ARCs across England. The objective is to create a national priority network and stimulate the implementation of evidence-based service change at regional and national level in high priority areas in the short-term (three years starting October 2020).

## Rapid response to COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ARC KSS, in partnership with Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, has been looking to identify research projects in Kent, Surrey and Sussex that will help improve and bring about the necessary change to our health and social care services.

Nine COVID-19 Rapid Response studies have been selected and funded to explore the impact COVID-19 has made to different communities and services across all three counties.

**Professor Stephen Peckham, ARC KSS Director, said:** "I am delighted to announce that we have been able to fund nine new studies that will help us to understand what life is like for many people and their carers during this pandemic.

"Over the next six months, we will be listening and speaking with selected people across Kent, Surrey and Sussex, including those caring for people with dementia, young people and families with mental health conditions and other vulnerable communities including Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) and those in high-risk groups such as the elderly people living in care homes, to help us comprehend what life has been like during the lockdown and what could be done to better improve health and care services in their area."

### Supporting BAME communities

Dr Priya Paudyal and Prof Jackie Cassell have been successful in securing funding for their study, which is a partnership between BSMS, Sussex Business School, Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, the University of Surrey and the ARC KSS. The project involves working with elderly BAME communities within the KSS region to develop culturally and linguistically appropriate health communication resources on COVID-19.

**Dr Priya Paudyal, says:** "Providing accessible and understandable information is really important for educating, empowering and improving COVID-19 related health outcomes, especially in BAME groups which have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19. We are really excited about this project which aims to develop and implement resources tailored to the needs of these communities."

**A full list of all nine COVID-19 Rapid Response projects that have been funded can be found under the section [COVID-19 projects](#).**

## Living with dementia during a pandemic

A research programme, funded by ARC KSS, aims to look at the quality of care and the impact social isolation has had on people with dementia, their family and carers, since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr Stephanie Daley, Senior Lecturer in Older People's Mental Health and Education, Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS) and Dr Naji Tabet, Dementia Theme Lead, Academic Research Collaboration Kent, Surrey and Sussex (ARC KSS) - together with colleagues at the Centre for Dementia Studies at BSMS and Sussex Partnership NHS

Foundation Trust - are leading a study into the impact this pandemic is having on people living with dementia in Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

The full story can be found [here](#).

## Training and development

There are a number of PhD opportunities in Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Further information can be found by following the links:

[Brighton and Sussex Medical School](#)

[The Faculty of Medicine, Health and Social Care at Christ Church University](#)

**The University of Brighton** [has four fee-only places on its MRes in Health Research](#). Entry requirements include registration with a professional body and a substantive contract with the NHS.

**ARC KSS** is inviting two Early Career Researchers to become members of ORCA, a group which will lead and advise the ARC KSS on the operational and strategic direction for capacity building within research across the region. You should have either a Health or Social Care (including social work) professional background to become a member of this group. We welcome health or social care professionals from any discipline including nurses, allied health care professionals, social care professionals or social workers. More information can be found in the [training and development](#) section of our website.

**The Joint Clinical Research Office (JCRO) at University of Sussex** has supported applications to the ARC KSS COVID19 rapid response calls. [Find out more about how to access JCRO assistance](#).

## Events

### Kent, Surrey and Sussex Partnership Day 2020

Due to the current climate, the KSS Partnership Day 2020 at the AMEX has been postponed until 2021. We hope to launch ARC KSS in the autumn so watch this space. In the meantime, keep in touch with the latest ARC KSS news and opportunities. Follow us on Twitter: @arc\_kss or visit our [webpages](#).

### Wednesday 1 July 2020 (11am -1pm)

#### **FREE webinar: Starting Well: Creating Impetus for research to deliver health and wellbeing for children and young people.**

The University of Surrey is holding a free webinar on the research on early detection and intervention of health problems in children and young people. To find out more and sign-up for free [here](#).

## Get involved

We welcome new member organisations including NHS and care organisations, charities, industry and businesses are still able to become ARC KSS member organisations.

For further information about how to join, contact:

[ARCKentSurreySussex@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk](mailto:ARCKentSurreySussex@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk)